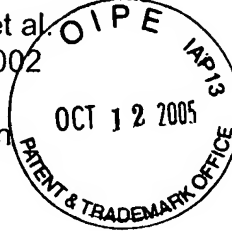


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/049,162
Applicant : HIRASHIMA et al.
Filed: : February 8, 2002
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Examiner : LUONG, Shian

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Customer No. : 42798



Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 12, 2005

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith, and in response to the Office Action of May 12, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.